

3 monitor/control section includes a cryptographic-
4 processing-status monitor/control section for
5 monitoring/controlling a cryptographic-processing status of
6 voice data transmitted over the communication network.

1 10. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 according to claim 9, wherein
3 said cryptographic-processing-status monitor/control
4 section includes a cryptographic-processing section for
5 cryptographic-processing voice data sent/received by the
6 first gateway equipment, and
7 said communication-status notification section is
8 operable to notify the subscriber terminal of the
9 cryptographic-processing status of voice data by said
10 cryptographic-processing section.

1 11. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 according to claim 10, wherein said cryptographic-
3 processing section is operable to carry out at least one of
4 scramble, encryption and interleave as a cryptographic
5 process.

1 12. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 according to claim 9, wherein
3 said cryptographic-processing-status monitor/control
4 section further includes a cryptographic-processing-status
5 monitor section for monitoring a cryptographic-processing

6 status of voice data by second gateway equipment, which is
7 connected to the communication network and serves as a
8 companion to the first gateway equipment for voice data
9 transmission, based on a transmission status of packets
10 between the first gateway equipment and the second gateway
11 equipment, and

12 said cryptographic-processing section is operable to
13 carry out the cryptographic-processing in accordance with
14 the cryptographic-processing status of the second gateway
15 equipment monitored by said cryptographic-processing-status
16 monitor section.

1 13. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 for a communication system in which at least one subscriber
3 terminal is connected to an communication network via first
4 gateway equipment, serving to create/analyze a packet as a
5 voice data transmission medium, so that the subscriber
6 terminal sends/receives voice data over the communication
7 network, said apparatus being adapted to be incorporated in
8 the first gateway equipment and comprising:

9 a request analysis section for discriminating whether
10 or not voice data received by the first gateway equipment
11 from the subscriber terminal contains a request on
12 monitoring/controlling or notifying a communication status
13 in the communication network, and for analyzing the content
14 of said request contained in the voice data received from
15 the subscriber terminal;

16 a communication-status monitor/control section,
17 responsive to the content of said request analyzed by said
18 request analysis section, for monitoring/controlling the
19 communication status of the communication network, based on
20 the processing status of the voice data in the first
21 gateway equipment; and

22 a communication-status notification section,
23 responsive to the content of said request analyzed by said
24 request analysis section, for notifying the subscriber
25 terminal of the communication status monitored/controlled
26 by said communication-status monitor/control section via
27 the first gateway equipment.

1 14. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 according to claim 13, wherein when the content of said
3 request analyzed by said request analysis section is
4 related with starting or stopping of the notification of
5 the communication status, said communication-status
6 notification section is operable to start or stop the
7 notification of the communication status according to the
8 content of said request.

1 15. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 according to claim 13, wherein when the content of said
3 request analyzed by said request analysis section is
4 related with selecting of a kind of the communication
5 status to be notified, said communication-status

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6 notification section is operable to notify the subscriber
7 terminal of the selected kind of the communication status
8 according to the content of said request.

1 16. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 according to claim 13, wherein said communication-status
3 notification section includes a notification-material
4 storage section for storing at least one of voice,
5 character and image as notification materials, and is
6 operable to carry out the notification of communication
7 status, using the notification materials stored in said
8 notification-material storage section.

1 17. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 according to claim 13, wherein said communication-status
3 monitor/control section includes a traffic-status
4 monitor/control section for monitoring/controlling a
5 traffic status in the communication network, based on a
6 sending/receiving status of packets in the first gateway
7 equipment.

1 18. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 according to claim 17, wherein said traffic-status
3 monitor/control section includes:
4 a traffic-information request section for requesting
5 each of one or more routers, which are included in the
6 communication network, to send to the first gateway

7 equipment information about the traffic status in each said
8 router, by transmitting a request signal to each said
9 router via the first gateway equipment;

10 a traffic-information obtaining section for obtaining
11 the information about the traffic status, which has been
12 sent from each said router in response to the request
13 signal transmitted by said traffic-information request
14 section, out of various data received by the first gateway
15 equipment; and

16 a traffic-status analysis section for analyzing the
17 traffic status of the communication network based on the
18 traffic-status information obtained by said traffic-
19 information obtaining section.

1 19. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 according to claim 17, wherein said traffic-status
3 monitor/control section includes:

4 a test-packet sending section for sending one or more
5 test packets via the first gateway equipment to second
6 gateway equipment, which is connected to the communication
7 network and serves as a companion with the first gateway
8 equipment for voice data transmission;

9 a test-packet retrieving section for retrieving the
10 individual test packet, which has been sent back from the
11 second gateway equipment, out of packets received by the
12 first gateway equipment; and

13 a traffic-status analysis section for analyzing the

14 traffic status of the communication network, based on the
15 retrieving status of the test packets by said test-packet
16 retrieving section.

1 20. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 according to claim 17, wherein
3 said traffic-status monitor/control section includes
4 a communication-quality evaluation section for evaluating
5 communication quality of voice data transmitted over the
6 communication network, based on the traffic status
7 monitored by said traffic-status monitor/control section,
8 and

9 said communication-status notification section is
10 operable to notify the subscriber terminal of information
11 about the communication quality of voice data evaluated by
12 said communication-quality evaluation section.

1 21. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 according to claim 20, wherein said traffic-status
3 monitor/control section further includes a band-alteration
4 request section, responsive to the communication quality of
5 voice data evaluated by said communication-quality
6 evaluation section, for requesting each of one or more
7 routers, which are included in the communication network,
8 to alter a band to be used for voice data transmission, by
9 transmitting a request signal to each said router via the
10 first gateway equipment.

1 22. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 according to claim 13, wherein said communication-status
3 monitor/control section includes a cryptographic-
4 processing-status monitor/control section for
5 monitoring/controlling a cryptographic-processing status of
6 voice data transmitted over the communication network.

1 23. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 according to claim 22, wherein
3 said cryptographic-processing-status monitor/control
4 section includes a cryptographic-processing section for
5 cryptographic-processing voice data sent/received by the
6 first gateway equipment, and
7 said communication-status notification section is
8 operable to notify the subscriber terminal of the
9 cryptographic-processing status of voice data by said
10 cryptographic-processing section.

1 24. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 according to claim 23, wherein said cryptographic-
3 processing section is operable to carry out at least one of
4 scramble, encryption and interleave as a cryptographic
5 process.

1 25. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 according to claim 22, wherein

3 said cryptographic-processing-status monitor/control
4 section further includes a cryptographic-processing-status
5 monitor section for monitoring a cryptographic-processing
6 status of voice data by second gateway equipment, which is
7 connected to the communication network and serves as a
8 companion with the first gateway equipment for voice data
9 transmission, based on a transmission status of packets
10 between the first gateway equipment and the second gateway
11 equipment, and

12 said cryptographic-processing section is operable to
13 carry out the cryptographic-processing in accordance with
14 the cryptographic-processing status of the second gateway
15 equipment monitored by said cryptographic-processing-status
16 monitor section.

1 26. A communication-status display apparatus for a
2 communication system in which at least one subscriber
3 terminal is connected to a communication network via
4 gateway equipment, serving to create/analyze a packet as a
5 voice data transmission medium, so that the subscriber
6 terminal sends/receives voice data over the communication
7 network, and also serving to monitor/control a
8 communication status in the communication network so as to
9 notify the subscriber terminal of information about the
10 monitored/controlled communication status, said apparatus
11 being adapted to be incorporated in the subscriber terminal
12 and comprising:

13 a notified-information detection section for
14 detecting information about the communication status of the
15 communication network, which status is monitored/controlled
16 by the gateway equipment, when the subscriber terminal is
17 notified of the communication-status information from the
18 gateway equipment;

19 a display-material storage section for storing at
20 least one of voice, character and image as display
21 materials; and

22 a communication-status display section for displaying
23 the communication status of the communication network,
24 based on the communication-status information detected by
25 said notified-information detection section, using said
26 display materials stored in said display-material storage
27 section.

1 27. A communication-status notification method for
2 notifying at least one subscriber terminal of a
3 communication status in a communication network of a
4 communication system in which the subscriber terminal is
5 connected to the communication network via gateway
6 equipment, serving to create/analyze a packet as a voice
7 data transmission medium, so that the subscriber terminal
8 sends/receives voice data over the communication network,
9 said method being carried out at the gateway equipment and
10 comprising the steps of:

11 (a) monitoring/controlling the communication status

12 of the communication network, based on a processing status
13 of voice data in the gateway equipment; and
14 (b) notifying the subscriber terminal of the
15 communication status monitored/controlled in said step (a).

1 28. A communication-status notification method for
2 notifying at least one subscriber terminal of a
3 communication status in a communication network of a
4 communication system in which the subscriber terminal is
5 connected to the communication network via gateway
6 equipment, serving to create/analyze a packet as a voice
7 data transmission medium, so that the subscriber terminal
8 sends/receives voice data over the communication network,
9 said method comprising the steps of:
10 at the subscriber terminal,
11 (a) sending to the gateway equipment a request on
12 monitoring/controlling or notifying of a communication
13 status of the communication network, said request being
14 contained in voice data transmitted over the communication
15 network;
16 at the gateway equipment,
17 (b) discriminating whether or not voice data received
18 from the subscriber terminal contains said request sent by
19 the subscriber terminal in said step (a) and, when the
20 voice data received from the subscriber terminal contains
21 said request, analyzing the content of said request
22 contained in the voice data;

23 (c) in response to the content of said request
24 analyzed in said step (b), monitoring/controlling the
25 communication status of the communication network, based on
26 a processing status of the voice data in the gateway
27 equipment; and

28 (d) in response to the content of said request
29 analyzed in said step (b), notifying the subscriber
30 terminal of the communication status monitored/controlled
31 in said step (c).

1 29. A recording medium, in which a communication-
2 status notification program is recorded, for use in gateway
3 equipment of a communication system in which at least one
4 subscriber terminal is connected to a communication network
5 via the gateway equipment, serving to create/analyze a
6 packet as a voice data transmission medium, so that the
7 subscriber terminal sends/receives voice data over the
8 communication network, wherein said program instructs the
9 gateway equipment to function as the following:

means for monitoring/controlling a communication status in the communication network, based on a processing status of voice data in the gateway equipment; and

means for notifying the subscriber terminal of the communication status of the communication network, which is monitored/controlled by said monitoring/controlling means, via the gateway equipment.

1 30. A recording medium, in which a communication-
2 status notification program is recorded, for use in a
3 gateway equipment of a communication system in which at
4 least one subscriber terminal is connected to a
5 communication network via the gateway equipment, serving to
6 create/analyze a packet as a voice data transmission medium,
7 so that the subscriber terminal sends/receives voice data
8 over the communication network, wherein said program
9 instructs the gateway equipment to function as the
10 following:

11 means for discriminating whether or not voice data
12 received by the gateway equipment from the subscriber
13 terminal contains a request on monitoring/controlling or
14 notifying of a communication status in the communication
15 network, and for analyzing the content of said request
16 contained in the voice data received from the subscriber
17 terminal;

18 means, responsive to the content of said request
19 analyzed by said discriminating and analyzing means, for
20 monitoring/controlling the communication status of the
21 communication network, based on the processing status of
22 the voice data in the gateway equipment; and

23 means, responsive to the content of said request
24 analyzed by said discriminating and analyzing means, for
25 notifying the subscriber terminal of the communication
26 status, which is monitored/controlled by said
27 monitoring/controlling means, via the gateway equipment.

1 31. A communication apparatus for use in a
2 communication system including a communication network and
3 at least one subscriber terminal, said apparatus being
4 disposed between the communication network and the
5 subscriber terminal and comprising:

6 a gateway section serving to create/analyze a packet
7 as a voice data transmission medium so that the subscriber
8 terminal sends/receives voice data over the communication
9 network; and

10 a communication-status notification section for
11 notifying the subscriber terminal of a communication status
12 in the communication network, based on a processing status
13 of packet in said gateway section.

1 32. A communication-status notification apparatus
2 for a communication system in which at least one subscriber
3 terminal is connected to a communication network via a
4 router, serving to create/analyze a packet as a voice data
5 transmission medium, so that the subscriber terminal
6 sends/receives voice data over the communication network,

7 wherein said apparatus is adapted to be incorporated
8 in the router and is equipped with a communication-status
9 notification section for notifying the subscriber terminal
10 of a communication status in the communication network via
11 the router, based on a processing status of the voice data
12 in the router.